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UNCLAS LILONGWE 000308

SIPDIS

FOR IIP/G/AF - EBONI YORK AND AF/PAPD - ANDREE JOHNSON AND
IIP/T/EM
AF/S - GALANEK
AF/PD - DALTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KPAO](#) [OIIP](#) [SCUL](#) [MI](#)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR U.S. SPEAKER ON OUTREACH TO MUSLIM
YOUTH

A. Program description: Public Affairs Section Lilongwe requests a speaker to participate in a program of outreach focused areas of concern for Malawi's Muslim youth. These include HIV/AIDS, education and forming effective Muslim youth organizations to encourage positive behaviors and goal orientation. Muslim youth here would also be interested in hearing about Muslim life and culture in America. Muslim communities in Malawi are traditionally less well-educated than their Christian counterparts, because western education initially was established by Christian missionaries. Many in the Muslim leadership in Malawi have commented that their highest priority is overcoming that education deficit, and fighting the disproportionately high rate of HIV/AIDS among the predominantly Muslim YAO ethnic group. Post received high praise for Hibba Abugideiri's program on Muslim Life in America, and we see this program building on that one from the slightly different optic of focusing on a younger audience. This will be retail public diplomacy: the speaker would address students in Islamic secondary schools and Mosques across Malawi, and would ideally be a Muslim-American adept at connecting with a younger audience. An ideal length for the program would be 8 days of programming. With rest and travel, that would require nearly a two week stay in Malawi.

B. Timeframe: The timing for this program is flexible, but should occur sometime from mid-August to the end of FY 05. The speaker would ideally be in Malawi for

C. Purpose of the Program: Build goodwill and mutual understanding with the Muslim successor generation; positively reinforce themes of HIV/AIDS prevention, the importance of education (especially for girls) and

D. Audience: The audience will primarily be secondary school students, as well as their parents and Malawi's Muslim leadership.

E. Proposed topics and nature of events: the importance of education for strengthening and lifting the Muslim community out of poverty; HIV/AIDS prevention; building effective peer reinforcement structures to encourage positive behaviors; Muslim life in America.

F. Type or Name of Specialist required: Post has not made contact with any specific speaker. We are looking for someone with great public speaking skills and experience in connecting with a younger audience.

G. Language Requirements: English

H. Request for Supporting Bibliographic Materials: Once a speaker is selected, Post will request relevant materials that cannot be obtained locally.

I. Post Contact Information:

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